

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4 with:

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to a method for the production of a flexographic printing plate, particularly by digital means, which has a base layer and a layer of light sensitive material, ~~of the type~~ according to which an image is produced on the light sensitive layer by bringing about a selective crosslinking by insolation of the zones which are to be crosslinked using light with a predetermined wavelength and by removal of the non-crosslinked zones. The invention also relates to a flexographic printing plate obtained according to this method.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 11 with:

Background

Methods and flexographic printing plates ~~of this type~~ are already known. A known method for production of a flexographic printing plate consists of insulating with ultraviolet light a photo-polymer of elastomeric nature through a mask which is opaque with respect to ~~this~~ ultraviolet (UV) light. This method has the disadvantage that the mask is produced digitally by selective ablation in situ of a surface layer which is opaque with respect to UV with a laser operating with infrared light.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 27 with:

Summary of the Invention

The invention aims to propose a method which palliates the disadvantages just disclosed.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 29 with:

In order to attain this aim, in the method according to the invention ~~is characterized by the fact that~~ for the production of the image, an amplitude modulated laser light is used,

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~~whose~~ having a wavelength is on the order of 390 to 410 nm, and which is made to sweep the surface of the plate.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 33 with:

According to a ~~characteristic~~ of the invention, ~~one uses~~ laser sources consisting of a bundle of diodes functioning at wavelengths around 405 nm are used.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 35 with:

According to a ~~characteristic~~ of the invention, the removal of the non-crosslinked zones is done by liquefying of these zones by thermal means, without the use of solvents.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1 with:

The arrangement of the flexographic printing plate according to the invention ~~is characterized by the fact that it is in the form of~~ includes a tubular sleeve on a rigid support, which has a composite base and, attached on this base, a layer made of light sensitive material which is free of solvents.

Before the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 5, insert:

Brief Description of Drawings

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 2 line 16 with:

Detailed Description

A flexographic printing plate according to the invention is advantageously present in the form of tubular sleeve 1 mounted on rigid support 2 which is known. Plate 1 has

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composite base 4 of suitable thickness, between approximately 0.2 and 40 mm, preferably 0.3 mm, and layer 5 of light sensitive material with a thickness between approximately 0.5 and 2 mm, preferably 1.5 mm, which is attached ~~on~~ to the exterior surface of base 4. This sleeve can be manufactured using an extrusion method or any other known method. According to another variant, it could be produced by ~~thermal~~ thermally projecting pre-formulated powder onto a support cylinder or sleeve, for example, made of a composite material or any other appropriate material.